

Asking For Shortness After A Weak Two Opening Bid

By

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Most of the time Responder to a Weak Two Opening

- Passes with insufficient values
- Bids game with sufficient values
- Raises to increase the level of the preempt
- Bids 2NT for a feature ask
- Bids 2NT for an Ogust ask
- Bids a new suit forcing
- Bids a new suit non-forcing

Rarely Responder uses 2NT to ask for shortness

Ogust and Feature Asks

- Most of the time these methods will help determine whether to bid game or stop in a part score and are more useful than asking for a short suit.
- Thanks to John Jensen, there is a method to keep Ogust or Feature asks and still learn about short suits when you need this information.

Example Hand

♠ AKx ♥ xxx ♦ AKQxxx ♣ A

After partner opens 2 ♠, you see that game is almost certain and slam is possible, but those 3 ♥'s pose a problem.

You might get lucky with a feature ask that reveals the ♥ A or K.

Bidding 4NT can be dangerous with 3 possible losers in ♥'s

The 3 ♣ Solution

After Opener's weak two bid, Responder bids 3 ♣ to ask for shortness

- Opener bids 3 ♦ with no singleton or void allowing asker to stop at the 3 level
- Opener bids 3 ♥ with shortness in lowest side suit (always ♣)
- Opener bids 3S with shortness in the middle side suit (♦ or ♥)
- Opener bids 3N with shortness in the highest unbid suit (♥ or ♠)

Example Auction

North ♠ QJTxxx ♥ Qx ♦ Jx ♣ Kxx

N E S W

2 ♠ P 3 ♣! P

3 ♦! P 4 ♠ P

P P

South ♠ AKx ♥ xxx ♦ AKQxxx ♣ A

Finding no ♥ shortness, South settles for game.

Example Auction 2

North ♠ QJTxxx ♥ x ♦ Jxx ♣ Qxx

N E S W

2 ♠ P 3 ♣! P

3 N! P 6 ♠ P

P P

South ♠ AKx ♥ xxx ♦ AKQxxx ♣ A

Finding ♥ shortness, South confidently bids the
26 HCP slam

Summary

- This gadget may be used rarely, but when used it can be quite effective.
- You give up only the ability to bid 3 ♣ naturally over a weak Two opening!